



## Biden showcases deficit progress in bid to counter critics

By JOSH BOAK and FATIMA HUSSEIN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden on Wednesday highlighted new figures showing the government's red ink will grow less than expected this year and the national debt will shrink this quarter as he tried to counter criticism of his economic leadership amid growing dismay over inflation going into midterm elections that will decide control of Congress. Biden, embracing deficit reduction as a way to fight inflation, stressed that the dip in the national debt would be the first in six years, an achievement that eluded former President Donald Trump despite his promises to improve the federal balance sheet. "The bottom line is the deficit went up every year under my predecessor before the pandemic and during the pandemic. It has gone down both years since I've been here," Biden said. "Why is it important? Because bringing down the deficit is one way to ease inflationary pressures."

The president is placing a renewed emphasis on reducing the deficit — which is the gap between what the nation spends and what it takes in — in order to blunt Republican criticism that the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package has left the U.S. economy worse off.

Continued on Page 2



President Joe Biden speaks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Wednesday, May 4, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

### MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

CHERISH MOM WITH A BRUNCH CELEBRATION AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, ARUBA  
YOU CAN ELEVATE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH AN EXCLUSIVE MOËT & CHANDON OFFER

MAY 8 11 AM - 2 PM | ADULTS \$65 - TEENS \$35 CHILDREN (5-12) \$25  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 527 2222

SOLARIO

THE RITZ-CARLTON ARUBA

MOËT & CHANDON CHAMPAGNE

**TRAVEL INSURANCE ACCEPTED**  
SEEK REIMBURSEMENT ONCE BACK HOME

**NOORD MEDICAL CENTER, NOORD 63**

## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

FOR NON-LIFE THREATENING ILLNESSES AND INJURIES

**WWW.URGENTCARE.AW**

**BOOK YOUR PCR & ANTIGEN TEST**

**WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM**

Urgent Care Aruba

### Papillon RESTAURANT

- \* Outdoor Seating
- \* Early Bird from 5 till 7
- \* Live music

### Chef's Garden

Papillon RESTAURANT

Chef's Tasting Menu  
by Chef Martijn Liebrechts  
Located in "The Secret Garden"



# Biden showcases deficit progress in bid to counter critics

Continued from Front

It's an attempt to burnish his credentials as a responsible steward of the economy while trying to fend off criticism about inflation at a 40-year high. The reopening of the economy coming out of the coronavirus pandemic and the commodity squeeze resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war has made high prices a key political risk for Democrats. But it is unclear if greater fiscal responsibility can deliver politically for Biden as Democrats try to defend their control of the House and Senate. His two most recent Democratic predecessors, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, also cut budget deficits, only to leave office and see their Republican successors use the savings on tax cuts.

When reporters tried to question Biden about other topics after his remarks, the president prodded, "You don't want to ask about deficits?"

Biden is making a nuanced argument about how the financial outlook has improved: Strong job gains over the past 16 months have increased total incomes and led to additional tax revenues. That means that this fiscal year's budget deficit will decline \$1.5 trillion, much better than the \$1.3 trillion that was initially forecast. Less government borrowing will, in turn, limit the financial



President Joe Biden speaks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Wednesday, May 4, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

sources of inflation.

But the expected \$26 billion drop this quarter in the national debt — which is money the U.S. owes due to accumulated deficits over time — will be short-lived, as the debt already totals \$23.9 trillion and will continue to rise in the second half of this year. And while Biden expects his plans will improve the outlook for budget deficits over the next decade, the national debt would continue to climb. The Biden administration believes that the cost of servicing the debt is low enough to sustain the borrowing, while critics say structural changes

are needed to improve the long-term outlook.

"There needs to be a real fiscal restructuring because we continue to see these trillion-dollar deficits as far as the eye can see," said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office who now leads the center-right American Action Forum.

Holtz-Eakin said the Biden administration is taking credit for lower deficits over the past two years that largely occurred due to the end of coronavirus-related spending, rather than fixing the finances of Medicare and Social Security that will

determine the long-term budget outlook.

"That doesn't seem to be the right aspiration for a great country," Holtz-Eakin said. "What they're doing is essentially deferring the need to do anything real and genuinely fix the programs that are important to people."

Deficit reduction also matches a priority of Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, the key Democratic vote in the evenly split Senate who blocked the passage of Biden's domestic and environmental agenda in December. The reduction also occurs amid rising interest rates on U.S.

Treasury notes, a consequence of inflation running at 8.5% and the Federal Reserve's efforts to reduce price pressures.

Within an hour of Biden's remarks, Senate Republicans gathered to challenge Biden's economic policies. Their core critique is that overspending in response to COVID-19 was paired with restrictions on domestic oil and natural gas production, leading to higher gasoline prices than under Trump.

"The biggest drag on the U.S. economy right now involves the rising energy costs," said Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska. "This is purely a self-inflicted wound by the Biden administration."

One of the challenges for Biden is that voters have largely shrugged off deficit increases and seldom rewarded deficit cuts. Voters might discuss the idea of reducing deficits with pollsters, yet health care, incomes and inflation are often top of mind when casting their ballots.

Norman Ornstein, an emeritus scholar at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, noted that deficits are often "abstract" for voters. The recent low interest rates have also muted any potential economic drags from higher deficits, which have risen following the COVID-19 pandemic and, separately, the 2008 financial crisis, to help the economy recover. □



Donald Trump Jr., speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), Feb. 27, 2022, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

By **ERIC TUCKER** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The oldest son of former President Donald Trump has

## AP sources: Donald Trump Jr. speaks with Jan. 6 committee

met with the congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The interview Tuesday with Donald Trump Jr. comes as the bipartisan House committee moves closer to the former president's inner circle of family members and political advisers.

The younger Trump is of likely interest to the committee because of his proximity to his father on the day of the

riot.

Donald Trump Jr. was seen backstage at the rally on the White House Ellipse that took place shortly before supporters of the then-president marched to the Capitol and breached the building.

In several social media videos posted at the time of the Jan. 6 attack, Trump Jr. was seen with Kimberly Guilfoyle — then his girlfriend, now his fiancée — and other members of his family as his father pre-

pared to make a speech that investigators believed rallied supporters to act violently that day.

The House committee has also released text messages from Jan. 6 in which Trump Jr. pleaded with the White House to get his father to forcefully condemn the riot.

"We need an Oval address. He has to lead now. It has gone too far and gotten out of hand," Trump Jr. wrote to then-White House chief of staff Mark Meadows. □



# U.S. quietly expands asylum limits while preparing to end them

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and  
CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN  
Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — The Biden administration has begun expelling Cubans and Nicaraguans to Mexico under pandemic-related powers to deny migrants a chance to seek asylum, expanding use of the rule even as it publicly says it has been trying to unwind it, officials said Wednesday. The U.S. struck agreement with Mexico to expel up to 100 Cubans and 20 Nicaraguans a day from three locations: San Diego; El Paso, Texas; and Rio Grande Valley, Texas, according to a U.S. official with direct knowledge of the effort.

The expulsions began April 27 and will end May 22, the official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreement has not been made public. They are carried out under Title 42 authority, which was named for a public health law and used to expel migrants on grounds of preventing spread of COVID-19. Title 42 is due to expire May 23. The U.S. and Mexico agreed April 26 to a very limited number of expulsions of Cubans and Nicaraguans, according to a high-level Mexican official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly. It was prompted by higher numbers of migrants from those two countries coming to the U.S. border. Mexico also took into account that the U.S. government had started processing visas in Cuba again, the official said. Mexico had already begun processing visas for Cubans.

Another Mexican official, also not authorized to comment publicly, confirmed that up to 100 Cubans and 20 Nicaraguans were being expelled from San Diego under Title 42 under an agreement that runs through May 22.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Until last week, Mexico only agreed to take Guate-



In this Sept. 17, 2019 photo, a U.S. border patrol officer directs a Nicaraguan migrant family, who is applying for asylum in the U.S., over International Bridge 1 from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico into Laredo, Texas, for an interview with immigration officials.

Associated Press

malans, Hondurans and El Salvadorans — in addition to Mexicans — under Title 42 authority. Other nationalities are subject to Title 42 but costs, strained diplomatic ties and other considerations often make it difficult to send them back to their home countries.

It's next to impossible for the U.S. to expel migrants to Cuba or Nicaragua due to poor relations with those governments. That has posed an acute challenge for the Biden administration as more people from those countries seek haven in the United States.

Cubans were stopped by U.S. authorities more than 32,000 times on the Mexican border in March, double the number in February and more than five times October's count, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Nicaragua eased travel restrictions from Cuba in November, making it easier for Cubans to continue by land to the U.S. border. Most enter

the U.S. in or near Yuma, Arizona, and Del Rio, Texas. Nicaraguans were stopped more than 16,000 times in March, more than double September's level. The vast majority enter in South Texas.

Lifting Title 42 has proven controversial as midterm elections near, even for Biden's Democratic Party, amid concerns that the U.S. is unprepared for an anticipated increase in migrants seeking asylum. Authorities stopped migrants more than 221,000 times in March, the highest mark in 22 years.

The White House and Homeland Security Department have publicly stood behind the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's decision to end the measure because it could no longer be justified on grounds of protecting public health.

But the practice of expelling Cubans and Nicaraguans runs counter to the administration's public statements

that it was phasing out use of the pandemic powers to prepare for May 23.

The U.S. has expelled migrants more than 1.8 million times under Title 42 authority since March 2020, effectively overriding rights to seek asylum under U.S. law and international treaty. In doing so, migrants are not subject to immigration law, which include rights to seek protection from persecution at home.

The administration said in court filings that it began processing more Central American adults under immigration laws after the CDC's announcement on April 1. But a federal judge in Louisiana ruled last week that it couldn't start unwinding Title 42 while it was still in effect.

U.S. District Judge Robert Summerhays strongly criticized the CDC's decision, suggesting he would try to keep Title 42 in effect after May 23. A hearing is scheduled May 13 for oral arguments.

Marisa Limón, senior director of advocacy and planning at the Hope Border Institute, said advocates began learning about expulsions of Cubans and Nicaraguans from El Paso on Monday and later confirmed the new practice with U.S. officials.

Limón said the administration is "trying to get every last bit out of Title 42" before it expires. She called it "sobering" but consistent with the administration's efforts to have other countries in the Western hemisphere take more responsibility for hosting people fleeing their homes. □





# California moves to embrace cryptocurrency and regulate it

By **DON THOMPSON**

**Associated Press**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)**

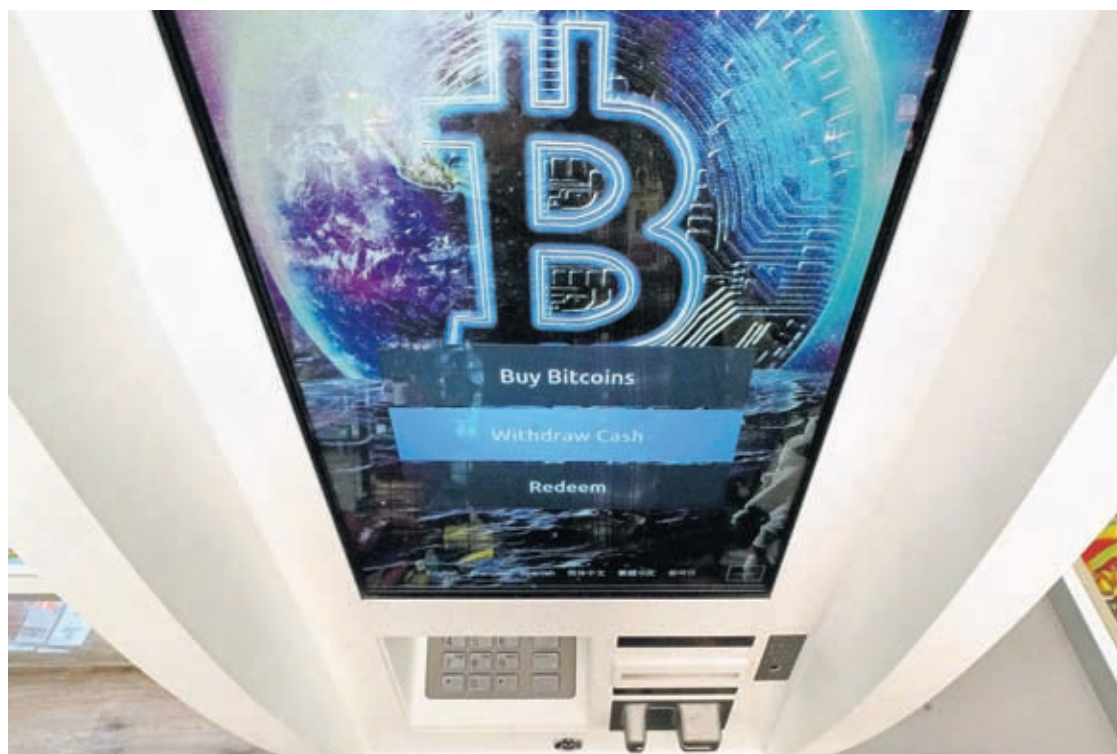
— California, which would have the world's fifth-largest economy if it was a country, on Wednesday became the first U.S. state to formally begin examining how to broadly adapt to cryptocurrency and related innovations, following a path laid out by President Joe Biden in March.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order for state agencies to move in tandem with the federal government to craft regulations for digital currencies. It also calls for officials to explore incorporating broader blockchain computer coding into the government operations of the state where much of the world's technological innovation is born.

Evolving blockchain and cryptocurrency technology "is potentially an explosive creator of new companies and new jobs and new opportunities," said Dee Dee Myers, a senior advisor to Newsom and director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.

"So there are a lot of opportunities," she said. "There's also a lot of unknowns in the industry and so that's another reason we want to engage early."

Newsom's order says the state — home to Silicon Valley and financial innovators like PayPal and Square —



In this Feb. 9, 2021, photo, the Bitcoin logo appears on the display screen of a cryptocurrency ATM at a store in Salem, N.H.

should be out front in figuring out how to adapt to new technologies.

"Too often government lags behind technological advancements, so we're getting ahead of the curve on this, laying the foundation to allow for consumers and business to thrive," Newsom, a Democrat, said in a statement.

California has about 39 million residents and its economy is more than \$3.1 trillion, larger on its own as a U.S. state than the United Kingdom and India. Newsom said his order is a step toward making it the nation's first state "to establish a comprehensive, thoughtful, and harmonized regu-

latory and business environment for crypto assets."

Cryptocurrencies, which are built on blockchain database technology, have exploded in popularity in recent years. About 16% of U.S. adults have invested in, traded, or used cryptocurrencies and the percentage is much higher among younger men. Biden's executive order in part asks the Federal Reserve to consider whether it should create its own digital currency. Blockchain creates the underlying transparency of a decentralized but publicly viewable ledger. The technology can also be used to record other types of information, such as property

records. The records are held on many computers that together form a global network so that no one and no institution can control them. There is heavy disagreement about the legitimacy of cryptocurrency, even among some of the world's richest people. Elon Musk is an avid supporter of dogecoin while Warren Buffet recently said he wouldn't pay \$25 for all of the world's bitcoin, the most popular cryptocurrency. Each bitcoin is currently valued at about \$38,000. While California may be first to try to develop a comprehensive approach, Ohio was the first to attempt to accept virtual currency

**Associated Press**

for government services in 2018, though the program was soon discontinued because few people used it.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, also a Democrat, said in February that his state would begin accepting cryptocurrency for government services later this year. California lawmakers are among many around the U.S. who have offered related legislation. But a bill by Democratic Sen. Sydney Kamlager to allow California to accept crypto assets for state services failed in its first committee this year and a similar bill by Republican Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham is stalled.

Similar measures have been introduced in Arizona, Wyoming and other states.

Despite the potential pitfalls of cryptocurrency, Newsom's order says California should take the lead in figuring out how to adapt to the technological evolution.

His order builds on a July 2020 report by the California Blockchain Working Group, which examined the use of blockchain along with its risks and benefits.

California that same year created a new Department of Financial Protection and Innovation from what had been the Department of Business Oversight, with a goal of evaluating emerging risks and opportunities while protecting consumers. □



The American flag, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag, and the City of Boston flag, from left, fly outside Boston City Hall, Monday, May 2, 2022, in Boston.

**Associated Press**

By **PHILIP MARCELO**

**Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP)** — The Satanic Temple is requesting to fly a flag over Boston City Hall after the U.S. Supreme

Court ruled this week that the city violated the free speech rights of a conservative activist seeking to fly a Christian flag outside the downtown building.

## Satanic Temple asks Boston to fly flag after court ruling

The Salem-based group tweeted a request filed Tuesday with the city property management department to raise a flag marking "Satanic Appreciation Week" from July 23-29.

Mayor Michelle Wu's office declined to comment on the group's request other than to say it's reviewing the high court's decision while also evaluating its flag-raising program. Lucien Greaves, the organization's co-founder, said in an email Wednesday

that the group wants to show that religious liberty must mean respect for "all forms" of religious practice and religious opinion.

"When government officials are able to impose arbitrary restrictions on claims of conscience, or to abridge the civic capacities of some based on their religious identity, we fail to be a free, democratic republic," he wrote in part. The organization hasn't decided which of its official flags it will ask the city to fly,

Greaves said, but one likely option echoes the American flag, only with black and white stripes and an emblem of a pentagram and goat skull where the 50 stars would be.

The Satanic Temple is separate from the Church of Satan, which was founded in the 1960s. Founded in 2013, the Satanic Temple doesn't believe in Satan and describes itself as a "non-theistic religious organization" that advocates for secularism. □



# EU takes major step toward Russian oil ban, new sanctions

By LORNE COOK and SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The European Union's top official on Wednesday called on the 27-nation bloc to ban oil imports from Russia and target the country's biggest bank and major broadcasters in a sixth package of sanctions over the war in Ukraine.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, proposed having EU member nations phase out imports of crude oil within six months and refined products by the end of the year.

"We will make sure that we phase out Russian oil in an orderly fashion, in a way that allows us and our partners to secure alternative supply routes and minimizes the impact on global markets," von der Leyen said.

The proposals must be unanimously approved to take effect and are likely to be the subject of fierce debate.

Von der Leyen conceded that getting all 27 member countries some of them landlocked and highly dependent on Russia for energy supplies to agree on oil sanctions "will not be easy."

The EU gets about 25% of



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivers her speech during a debate on the social and economic consequences for the EU of the Russian war in Ukraine, Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France.

its oil from Russia, most of which goes toward gasoline and diesel for vehicles. Russia supplies about 14% of diesel, S&P Global analysts said, and a cutoff could send already high prices for truck and tractor fuel soaring.

If approved, the ban on oil imports would be the second package of EU sanctions targeting Russia's lucrative energy industry since the country invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

In a video message posted on Twitter, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba welcomed Von der Leyen's

proposal for an oil embargo. He said Ukraine is not happy it will be delayed for several months, but "it's better than nothing."

"I think what should be clear now is that (the time) for half-sanctions or half-measures when it comes to sanctions is gone," Kuleba said, arguing that the EU can no longer support Ukraine on one hand by imposing sanctions, while continuing to pay Russia for oil and gas and support their "war machine."

"As long as Russia continues to receive revenues in billions ... from the European

Union ... we cannot speak of defeating Russia," he said. "They will continue financing their war machine from oil and gas revenues." In addition to sanctions on various entities and individuals, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and members of his family, the EU previously approved an embargo on coal imports. The EU has started discussions on a possible natural gas embargo, but consensus among member countries on targeting the fuel used to generate electricity and heat homes is more difficult to secure. The re-

Associated Press

gion gets about 40% of its natural gas from Russia. Hungary and Slovakia previously said they wouldn't take part in any oil sanctions. Von der Leyen didn't elaborate on whether they would receive an exemption from the sanctions, although it appeared likely. Slovak Economy Minister Richard Sulik said Wednesday that Slovakia was not against the punishing measures but is asking for a transition period of three years. Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said his country is ready to support the package but also needs to be allowed more time about two or three years before it can implement a ban on Russian oil, in order to increase the capacity of pipelines to get oil from other sources.

Ukraine's Kuleba said that any country which continued to oppose the embargo on Russian oil could be considered "complicit in the crimes committed by Russia in the territory of Ukraine."

The EU and Russia are playing "a game of chicken. It is hard to say who will swerve/blink first."

The Russians for fear of running out of money.

Or Europe for fear of the lights going out," James Nixey, the director of the Russia and Eurasia program at London's Chatham House think tank, said. □

# Dutch king lays wreath, thousands attend remembrance event

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — Dutch King Willem-Alexander laid a wreath Wednesday at a war memorial in Amsterdam during the first national commemoration of the country's war dead since coronavirus restrictions were lifted earlier this year. Thousands of people including at least one draped in a Ukrainian flag observed two minutes of silence at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT) on the Dutch capital's Dam Square. It was a marked difference from the last two May 4 wreath-laying ceremonies in Amsterdam, which were held without public attendance

because of COVID-19 lockdown measures.

Amid the memories of past conflicts, Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema alluded to the war in Ukraine when she described in a speech photographs of death and destruction following a bombing raid on the Dutch capital during World War II. "They are old photos, but the imagery is current," she said.

The national day of commemoration, at which flags fly at half staff from buildings throughout the country, honors military personnel and civilians killed in conflicts around the world

since the outbreak of World War II.

It is followed Thursday by celebrations to mark the country's liberation from Nazi German occupation at the end of the war.

Earlier Wednesday, staff at a war cemetery in the eastern city of Nijmegen discovered pro-Ukraine graffiti sprayed on graves and buildings.

Police were investigating the vandalism at the Jonkerbos cemetery, which is home to the graves of more than 1,600 Allied soldiers killed during World War II. □



Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima, center arrive for the Remembrance Day ceremony at the national monument on Dam square in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Wednesday, May 4, 2022, commemorating civilians and members of the armed forces who have died in wars and peacekeeping missions since the start of the Second World War.

Associated Press



# In Nigeria, U.N. chief welcomes reintegration of extremists

By **CHINEDU ASADU**

**Associated Press**

**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)** —

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday lauded Nigerian authorities' ongoing reintegration of defectors from the jihadi Boko Haram group, which has waged a decade-long insurgency, as "the best thing we can do for peace."

Speaking to reporters in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state where the insurgency is centered, Guterres also called for more global funding to help rebuild lives in northeast Nigeria where the rebels are operating.

"The best thing we can do for peace is to reintegrate those who in the moment of despair became terrorists but now want to ... contribute to the well-being of their brothers and sisters," the U.N. chief said after meeting with former militants at a rehabilitation camp in Maiduguri.

The Nigerian military said in March that 1,629 of the former fighters have so far



**United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, waves to the crowds upon arrival in Maiduguri, Nigeria, Tuesday, May 3, 2022.**

graduated from the reintegration program.

In the final leg of his three-nation tour of West Africa, the UN chief is for the first time visiting Nigeria, Africa's most populous

country, where he called for donors worldwide to support humanitarian assistance in the northeast.

Boko Haram, Nigeria's homegrown Islamic extremist rebels, launched an

insurgency in 2009, to fight against western education and to establish Islamic Shariah law in Nigeria.

Their rebellion spread over the years to the neighboring West African countries

**Associated Press**

of Cameroon, Niger and Chad. Boko Haram drew international condemnation in 2014 when they abducted 276 schoolgirls in Chibok village, more than 100 of whom are still missing.

Before his trip to Nigeria, Guterres was in Niger on Monday where he voiced strong concern over jihadi violence in the Sahel, the vast semi-arid area south of the Sahara Desert.

"The international community must realize that this is no longer just a regional or African issue, but a global threat," he said.

"The people I met today want to go back home," he said. But before they return, he said, authorities must put in place the necessary conditions "security conditions, development conditions."

The jihadi violence has directly resulted in approximately 35,000 deaths and the displacement of at least 2.1 million people, data from U.N. agencies in Nigeria show. □

# DiCaprio, Ruffalo urge Brazilians to vote, irking Bolsonaro

By **DIANE JEANTET**

**Associated Press**

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** —

Hollywood stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo joined other celebrities making a final push for voters in Brazil to register before the Wednesday deadline, prompting dismissive responses from President Jair Bolsonaro.

In recent days, A-listers in Brazil and abroad have used their prestige and social media platforms to call for young, first-time voters in Brazil to register to vote in the October presidential election that is expected to pit far-right incumbent Bolsonaro against former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the leftist Workers' Party.

In Brazil, voting is mandatory for anyone aged between 18 and 70, and failure to vote entails paying a small fine. Those 16 and 17 can vote, but are not obligated and young people

have been at the center of a nationwide get-out-the-vote campaigns.

Brazil's electoral authority says it has received a record number of registration requests.

DiCaprio, an environmental activist, has feuded previously with Bolsonaro over the Brazilian leader's efforts to expand development in

the Amazon rainforest.

With the deadline nearing, DiCaprio sent three posts on his official Twitter account all written in Portuguese to encourage registration.

"Sixteen and 17 year olds have the power to help build Brazil's future," he wrote in one, linking to a website with step-by-step

instructions on how to register. "To exercise this power, you need to register to vote by 23:59 today."

Ruffalo has also used social media, retweeting to his 8 million followers a selection of short comic videos made by Brazilian teenagers explaining how to register.

"Let's rock this campaign! Democracy and the planet win," Ruffalo wrote on May 1, using the trending hashtag #TiraOTituloHoje, which translates as #RegisterToVoteToday.

At home, legendary Brazilian actress Fernanda Montenegro and singer Anitta also encouraged young people to vote. The latter told her nearly 17 million fans on Twitter that she had discussed the issue at length with DiCaprio at this week's Met Gala in New York City, and that the actor knew more about the environment than Bolsonaro.

"I'm glad you spoke to a Hollywood actor, Anitta, it's every teenager's dream," Bolsonaro shot back Tuesday on Twitter. "I talk to thousands of Brazilians every day. They are not famous, but they are the compass for our decisions, because nobody defends and knows more about Brazil than its own people".

Bolsonaro also trained fire on DiCaprio, an adversary whom in the past he has accused, without providing evidence, of funding nonprofit groups that he claimed are partly responsible for fires in the Amazon. "DiCaprio has to know that the (World Trade Organization) president herself said that without Brazilian agribusiness, the world would go hungry," Bolsonaro told a group of supporters outside the presidential residence in Brasilia, adding that the actor should "keep his mouth shut instead of talking nonsense." □



**Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro waves to supporters as he arrives at the Labor Day and Freedom rally, in Brasilia, Brazil, Sunday, May 1, 2022.**

**Associated Press**



## Fiji says U.S. can seize Russian superyacht but not right away

By NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) —

A judge in Fiji has ruled that U.S. authorities can seize a Russian-owned superyacht — but has put a hold on his order until at least Friday while defense lawyers mount a challenge. The yacht Amadea — worth \$325 million — had earlier been stopped from leaving the South Pacific nation because of its links to Russia. That order will stand for now, preventing U.S. authorities from taking the yacht to Hawaii or elsewhere.

A question remains over which of two Russian oligarchs really owns the Amadea, with only one of them facing sanctions. There are also questions about how far U.S. jurisdiction extends into Fiji.

Suva High Court Justice Deepthi Amaratunga on Tuesday granted an order allowing the U.S. to seize the superyacht after the U.S. had earlier filed a warrant. But the judge has also allowed for a pause while defense lawyers put together their challenge.

The judge's next decision in the case will come on Friday, when he will decide whether to continue to put a hold on the yacht's seizure pending a formal appeal by the defense.

The U.S. Justice Department in March announced



The superyacht Amadea is docked at the Queens Wharf in Lautoka, Fiji, on April 15 2022.

Associated Press

the creation of a team of federal agents and prosecutors to pursue wealthy Russians or those aiding Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The team, called Task Force KleptoCapture, was set up to seize assets belonging to oligarchs with the aim of pressuring Russia to end the war. The U.S. claims the real owner of the superyacht Amadea is Suleiman Kerimov. The economist and former Russian politician was sanctioned by the U.S. in 2018 for alleged money laundering and has faced further sanctions from Canada, Europe, Britain and other nations after Russia invaded Ukraine.

Kerimov made a fortune in-

vesting in Russian gold producer Polyus, with Forbes magazine putting his net worth at \$14.5 billion.

But defense lawyers claim the real owner is Eduard Khudainatov, the former chairman and chief executive of Rosneft, the state-controlled Russian oil and gas company. Khudainatov currently does not appear to face any sanctions, unlike many oligarchs and people with close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin who have been sanctioned since the war began.

As with many superyachts, determining the real ownership of the Amadea is difficult due to the shad-

owy trail of trusts and shell companies. On paper, the superyacht is registered in the Cayman Islands and owned by Millemarin Investments Ltd., also based in the Cayman Islands.

Defense lawyers have claimed in court that Millemarin Investments Ltd. is the legal owner of the vessel and that the company is linked to the real, or beneficial, owner, Khudainatov. But U.S. authorities have claimed that behind all the various fronts, the real owner is Kerimov.

On April 19, after the yacht had sailed into Fiji from Mexico, the High Court in Suva ordered that the Amadea not leave Fiji un-

til the merits of the U.S. warrant to seize the vessel were determined. Perhaps reflecting the question over ownership, the court later ordered Fijian prosecutors to amend an original summons, which named just Kerimov, to also include Millemarin Investments Ltd. as a second respondent to the case.

For now, the yacht continues to sit in a Fijian harbor with its crew of about 25 rotating on and off the vessel, while a police officer remains on board to ensure it stays put.

According to Boat International, the Amadea is 106 meters long and was built in 2017. It features a stainless steel albatross that extends off the bow and weighs more than 5 tons, a live lobster tank in the galley, a 10-meter (33-foot) pool, a hand-painted Pleyel piano and a large helipad.

The U.S. Embassy in Suva earlier said in a statement that the U.S. was acting with allies and partners around the world to impose costs on Russia because of its "war of choice."

"We continue to ratchet up the pressure on Putin's oligarchs and we are working with allies and partners to go after corrupt gains from some of the individuals closest to Putin, no matter where they are held around the world," the embassy said. □

## Feminists rally for Argentine nuns who denounced archbishop

SALTA, Argentina (AP) —

Feminist groups have rallied to the support of 18 cloistered Carmelite nuns who have filed an unusual complaint of gender violence against the local Catholic archbishop.

Dozens of activists gathered Tuesday in the esplanade of the Convent of St. Bernard in Salta, some 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) northwest of Buenos Aires. The nuns, members of the Discalced Carmelites order, have filed a complaint with a local court accusing Salta Archbishop Mario Anto-

nio Cargnello, Bishop emeritus Martín de Elizalde and vicar Lucio Ajalla of "physical, psychological and economic violence." The archbishop has denied the accusations and the position of the other two is unclear because they have not given statements or officially named attorneys. Elizalde had been designated by the Vatican to hear the nuns' complaints, but they complain he had accepted the behavior they denounced.

Protesters carried posters reading "Sister, We Believe

You" and "Enough of Violent Priests!"

The woman joined hands and spread out around the historic structure in a symbolic hug.

"Sometimes one thinks that the sisters are in harmony, in a contemplative life, but the violence of the church itself has made them say, 'enough!'" said Irene Cari of the Forum of Women for Equal Opportunities, one of several groups that participated in the demonstration.

The cloistered nuns have long been at odds with



Women protest holding hands as they surround the San Bernardo Convent in Salta, Argentina, Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

Associated Press

Cargnello over their support for a local woman who professes to have seen visions of the Virgin Mary that he does not accept.

Attorneys for the nuns say the archbishop was upset when an image of the Madonna del Cerro was

placed at the funeral of a nun in 2020 and that Ajalla lunged at a nun to stop her filming the scene. They say the archbishop himself, as well as Ajalla, hit the prioress' arm when she recovered the device used to film. □




**Fit2fly** COVID-19  
Testing Center

**NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!**

**NAAT (Abott ID):  
Result in 30 minutes!**

**PCR / Antigen Test  
SAME DAY RESULT!**



**MedCare Clinic**  
URGENT CARE

**Tel: (+297) 280-0630**  
info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: **The Cove Mall** (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM) **Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott** (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)



*Pinchos Grill & Bar*

Open Everyday 5PM - 11PM

*Spectacular setting - all tables over the water*

*Bar snacks & drinks available*

*Reservations recommended*

583-2666  
www.pinchosaruba.com  
reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com

Live Music Fri - Sat & Sun



Follow Us  

## Urgent Care vs. Emergency Room: Where should you go?



**Imagine yourself arriving on the beautiful island of Aruba. You've scheduled your days with exciting activities or to relax by the beach or pool. Of course, the least you would expect is to get sick or become in need of medical assistance. Because honestly, who does that while on vacation?**

But when that happens, you need to know who and

where to visit. So, the first step is to assess your medical need and its urgency. At Urgent Care Aruba, we offer medical assistance for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. We accept walk-ins from Monday to Friday from 8 am to 8 pm, Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm, Sunday/Holiday from 10 am to 2 pm. Therefore, receive a better cost value than the Emergency Room as the alternative option.

Other services offered at the Urgent Care Aruba is X-Ray (Without Appointment), Ultrasound (With Appointment), and Gynecology Services (With Appointment).


Visit us to assess your symptoms, and we'll provide you

with a proper diagnosis and treatment since we will also provide you with a pre-

scription if deemed necessary. Our mission is to have you back on your vacation; that is why we offer quick, reliable, and efficient medical service.

Please view our comparison information chart: Urgent Care vs. Emergency Room.

Contact us for more information at +297 5860448. WhatsApp +297 5975549, info@urgentcare.aw, or visit our website at www.urgentcare.aw or visit us at Noord 63, Noord Medical Center.

Rate our service on Google! 





## BINGO IS BACK EVERY THURSDAY, SATURDAY &amp; SUNDAY!

**BONUS**  
B I N G O  
**THURSDAY!**

Bonus 4-Card BINGO  
starting at 1pm!

\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play

**\$1,500 in Cash Prizes**

**SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME**

Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our  
Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you  
purchase your card before noon!

## THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,  
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar

Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café

The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



## For the first time in our history Aruba welcomes a Mega Cruise Ship "Bon Bini" Allure of the Seas!

Oranjestad - Yesterday was a historic day for Aruba Ports Authority NV as we welcomed Allure of the Seas, one of the biggest cruise ships in our Port of Oranjestad. This was welcomed with a traditional water salute by our tug boats.

Allure of the Seas from the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines company is one of the biggest cruise ships in the world. They received a warm "Bon Bini" (welcome) with a traditional salute from our tug boats. There were a lot of preparations made to receive this mega cruise ship in Aruba.

Allure of the Seas arrived in Aruba with a total of 4505 passengers on board. The most positive part for Aruba is that in the entire route and schedule of the cruise ship, the port at Oranjestad is the one where it will be docked for the longest, namely for 15 hours. This means that the passengers will have more hours to contribute to Aruba's economy and enjoy of our beautiful Island. The ship can hold 5400 passengers, with a total of 18 floors and a length of 362.12 meters. It also travels using 30% LNG gas which makes it much friendlier to the environment.

The preparations to receive a mega cruise ship at our port had started a long time ago already. Since 2018 the government of Aruba made an investment of 14 million florins so that we could receive the Colorado Tugboat to make this possible. 3 months ago, Aruba Port Authority invested 1.6 million florins to being with underwater construction jobs, namely digging and cleaning the sea floor to reach a depth of 12 to 13 meters again. Today, we see the results of our investments with the arrival of one of the biggest cruise ships that have ever stationed at our port.

Minister Dangui Oduber firmly believes in the recovery of Aruba's tourism and economy, and that is the reason why the government is doing all they can to stimulate our economy.

Words of gratitude go to the director sr. Marc Figaroa, management of APA N.V and the board of commissioners. □



celebrate mom

tempo cu mami

This time for two is the ultimate gift to enjoy  
together with mom and can be enjoyed at our  
Outdoor Spa Cabana or Indoor Couples Suite.

Choose from:

Relaxation Massage · Fitness Muscle Massage  
Hot Stone Massage · Stress Relief Massage

50 Min \$300 | 80 Min \$455

**eforea**  
SPA

Dial 297 6052 to book your journey.

J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 81, Palm Beach, Aruba  
[hiltonaruba.com](http://hiltonaruba.com) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HiltonAruba) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/HiltonAruba) | [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@HiltonAruba)

Offer valid until May 31, 2022.



## A New Partnership Bringing Hope to our Youth

**SAN NICOLAS** - During the Easter weekend the Little League Soft Ball & Aruba Para-Olympic Committee teamed up with the HopEx Foundation and the Free-winds Ship to create a walk that was not only fun but also an example to raise awareness for those with disabilities.

Children as well as adults participated in a combined 5K fun walk and scavenger hunt through the streets of San Nicolas with over 200 participants and 50 volunteers making the event a big success.

What made this event unique and special was that it was not just about who got to the finish line first, but participating in sta-



tions along the way where competitors who got to

experience what it might be like to live with a handicap. There were also picture moments and games by each station making the scavenger hunt a success. For example, pairing up with another person being blindfolded while their partner assisted them to walk for 100 meters to experience what it is like to be blind. Easter eggs beeped out a signal had to be located by sound rather than sight.

The kids under 10 had a 2K run and after they were back they participated in an adventurous Easter Egg hunt. For the youth there were Beep Eggs they had to locate which made this hunt more difficult. There was something for the adults, for the kids and for the teenagers.

At the end of the race The Way to Happiness, which is a booklet with a common sense guide to better living in Papiamentu, was given out to participants and people in the crowd by the volunteers of Little League Softball and the Freewinds which was very appreci-

ated.

One of the organizers of the activity, Carmelita Haynes said, "It was a huge success! Participants came to me saying they were very happy to be able to participate today. The Way to Happiness Booklets were eagerly taken with some people saying they had already the booklet and requesting another one."

Ms Haynes hopes that many more will come out next year. She also wanted to give special thanks to all the sponsors providing prizes and the Freewinds for their continued support to the Aruban community. The sponsors who donated to the Paralympic committee and Little League Softball were: SETAR, Super Food, KIWANIS San Nicolas, Berg's Ice, Keke Super Center, The Volunteers from Colegio San Nicolas and all those persons who participated to make this FUNWALK a great success.

For more information about The Way to Happiness visit the [www.waytohappiness.org](http://www.waytohappiness.org) website



**ARUBA TODAY**

**For ADVERTISEMENTS in our Newspaper**

[aviso@bondia.com](mailto:aviso@bondia.com)



# Own An Affordable Piece Of Paradise

Aruba Home Minders offers A Steal of a Deal

Cozy 2nd floor condo at Villas Del Mar with renovated kitchen & bath, high ceilings & balcony overlooking the courtyard and plunge pool. Reasonable HOA includes cable/ internet & gas.

\$92,500.00



POOL AND COURTYARD



BEDROOM



KITCHEN



KITCHEN

CONTACT JUDY FOR DETAILS AND A PRIVATE TOUR

[www.arubahomeminders.com](http://www.arubahomeminders.com) | Tel: (297) 733-4663 | [info@arubahomeminders.com](mailto:info@arubahomeminders.com)

@arubahomeminders

## How to save more when inflation makes your money count less

By CHANELLE BESSETTE of NerdWallet

When it comes to spending power, inflation means that things cost more and that your money becomes less valuable. When a period of high inflation hits — like right now — you may want to consider changing up the way you handle your finances to help protect the value of your cash.

"Inflation is a time for investors and savers to reevaluate their strategies," says Walter Russell, CEO of financial adviser firm Russell and Company.

Through the Federal Reserve, the government tries to combat inflation on a large scale by raising the federal funds rate, which is the interest rate that commercial banks use to borrow and lend money to each other.

When the cost of borrowing becomes more expensive, higher interest rates trickle down to consumer products such as loans and mortgages, making them more expensive. But higher interest rates may also apply to deposit accounts, meaning that banks start to offer higher interest rates on checking, savings and certificates of deposit.

No one knows what the future will bring, but by making changes to how you spend and where you keep your money, you may be able to weather times of inflation more easily.

Here are some ways to save more during periods



In this April 3, 2019, photo a tip box is filled with U.S. currency in New York.

Associated Press

of inflation.

### LOOK FOR HIGH-YIELD INTEREST RATES

It can be frustrating to not be able to get loans for big purchases as easily during periods of high inflation. Still, consumers can take advantage of higher interest rates on bank accounts to fight the effects of inflation on their cash. Bank account interest rates usually don't totally beat the rate of inflation, but these accounts can help hedge against inflation far better than keeping cash at home or in a low-rate account.

The national average annual percentage yield for savings accounts is 0.06%, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, but there are plenty of financial institutions that offer rates that are much higher — some even 1.00% APY or more. To find these rates, you can research high-yield or high-interest accounts and choose the bank that works best for

you.

### FIND WAYS TO KEEP COSTS LOW

If you haven't looked over your budget in a while, now may be a good time. During the pandemic, you may have subscribed to multiple streaming services that you don't use anymore, or you might be spending more money dining out or paying for more convenience services now.

Some people are taking even more radical steps to save money. Amanda Claypool, a financial blogger based in upstate New York, has recently made larger lifestyle changes to keep her costs low in the face of inflation. She spent 2021 living out of her car while driving around the country and plans to return to that way of living soon to save on housing costs. She's also been trying to trim her budget by biking 16 miles round-trip to work and by eating more rice and beans, a cheap but

healthy meal.

"I'm concerned about rising food costs and the impact that will have on the entire supply chain," Claypool said through direct message. "I'm using the time now to prepare for future food insecurity by learning what food my body actually needs compared to what I enjoy eating. This might seem drastic, but it's helping me save money and eat better in the short term."

Not everyone can or wants to move into their car, but Claypool's money-saving tactics can work on a smaller scale. You can bike more often instead of driving everywhere, and you can reevaluate your food budget to add more cheap healthy meals. For a bigger change, you could downsize your housing to save even more money.

### CONSIDER INVESTING OR BUYING BONDS FOR LONG-TERM SAVINGS

It's a good idea to keep

short-term cash — like an emergency fund — accessible in a savings account, but if you have savings that you don't expect to need for a year or more, you may want to consider investing those funds or buying a treasury bond.

"For someone who has a lot of cash sitting on the sideline, (investing) could help you not lose money," Russell says. "More people might be willing to take on more risk because they want a higher rate of return."

Russell also recommends that consumers look into getting TreasuryDirect Series I savings bonds, which can give an interest rate of over 7% on up to \$10,000 for a one-year term. These bonds are basically like a certificate of deposit: You put your money in one for a year, and by the end of the year you have a guaranteed rate of return that hopefully stays higher than the current rate of inflation — so your money won't lose value.

The government will continue to review inflation data and make appropriate changes to the federal funds rate. However, there are other factors that may slow inflation in the coming year, such as changes to global supply chains that might free up inventory and lead to lower prices for goods. No matter whether inflation goes up or down, though, it's a good idea to keep an eye on ways to optimize your savings. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

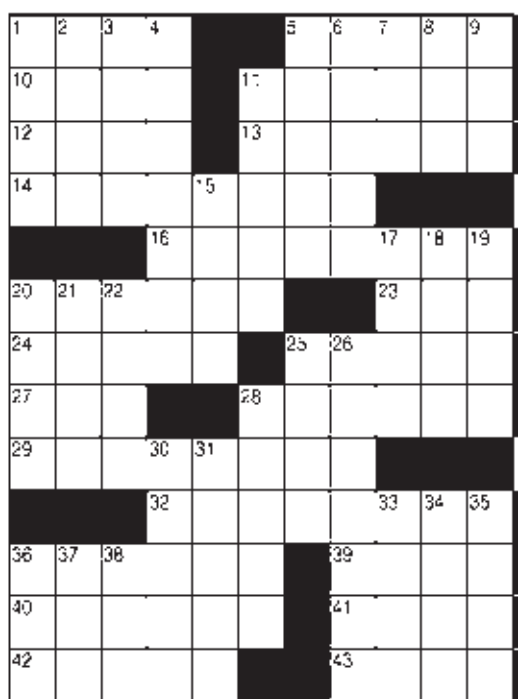
- 1 Tot's spot
- 5 Jazz genre
- 10 Helen's mother
- 11 Groom's garb
- 12 Com-motions
- 13 Some marbles
- 14 Worrier's mountain
- 16 Wagon-pulling group
- 20 Boosts
- 23 Parisian pal
- 24 Show gratitude to
- 25 Grating sounds
- 27 Cochlea setting
- 28 Upright
- 29 Roadside marker
- 32 Part for Ford, perhaps
- 36 Laundry problems
- 39 Penn-sylvania port
- 40 Aerie youngster
- 41 Go by bus
- 42 Low cards
- 43 Wound remnant

## DOWN

- 1 Chowder bit
- 2 Make over
- 3 Pop star
- 4 One on a diamond
- 5 "Taps" looter
- 6 Glorify
- 7 Track act
- 8 Pindar poem
- 9 Not neg.
- 11 Flip call
- 15 Lummax
- 17 Move carefully
- 18 Band boosters
- 19 Atomizer's output
- 20 Flower part
- 21 Bangkok native
- 22 Rank above
- 25 Token of love
- 26 Stag's pride
- 28 "The Planets" composer
- 30 Blunt of "A Quiet Place"
- 31 Window sections
- 33 Rocker Clapton
- 34 Verdi opera
- 35 Stag, e.g.
- 36 Ready to go
- 37 Sea dog
- 38 Long time



Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-5

## CRYPTOQUOTE

CP C Q LX AJ ZCMU BN ZCPU

LOLCF C'X BLGU AQU RLBU

BCRALGUR JFZN RJJFUH

— ALZZYZLQ DLEGGULX

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: REMEMBER, THE FORCE WILL BE WITH YOU, ALWAYS. — OBI-WAN KENOBI (FROM YOUR PUZZLE FRIENDS; MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU.)



The Twitter page of Elon Musk is seen on the screen of a computer in Sausalito, Calif., on Monday, April 25, 2022.

Associated Press

## Musk's 'free speech' push for Twitter: Repeating history?

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and AMANDA SEITZ

Associated Press

Elon Musk, the world's richest man, is spending \$44 billion to acquire Twitter with the stated aim of turning it into a haven for "free speech." There's just one problem: The social platform has been down this road before, and it didn't end well.

A decade ago, a Twitter executive dubbed the company "the free speech wing of the free speech party" to underscore its commitment to untrammelled freedom of expression. Subsequent events put that moniker to the test, as repressive regimes cracked down on Twitter users, particularly in the wake of the short-lived "Arab Spring" demonstrations. In the U.S., a visceral 2014 article by journalist Amanda Hess exposed the incessant, vile harassment many women faced just for posting on Twitter or other online forums.

Over the subsequent years, Twitter learned a few things about the consequences of running a largely unmoderated social platform — one of the most important being that companies generally don't want their ads running against violent threats, hate speech that bleeds into incitement, and misinformation that aims to

tip elections or undermine public health.

"With Musk, his posturing of free speech — just leave everything up — that would be bad in and of itself," said Paul Barrett, the deputy director of the Center for Business and Human Rights at New York University. "If you stop moderating with automated systems and human reviews, a site like Twitter, in the space of a short period of time, you would have a cesspool."

Google, Barrett pointed out, quickly learned this lesson the hard way when major companies like Toyota and Anheuser-Busch yanked their ads after they ran ahead of YouTube videos produced by extremists in 2015.

Once it was clear just how unhealthy the conversation had gotten, Twitter co-founder and former CEO Jack Dorsey spent years trying to improve what he called the "health" of the conversation on the platform.

The company was an early adopter of the "report abuse" button after U.K. member of parliament Stella Creasy received a barrage of rape and death threats on the platform. The online abuse was the result of a seemingly positive tweet in support of feminist campaigner Caroline

Criado-Perez, who successfully advocated for novelist Jane Austen to appear on a British banknote. Creasy's online harasser was sent to prison for 18 weeks.

Twitter has continued to craft rules and invested in staff and technology that detect violent threats, harassment and misinformation that violates its policies. After evidence emerged that Russia used their platforms to try to interfere with the 2016 U.S. presidential election, social media companies also stepped up their efforts against political misinformation.

Even now, Americans say they're more likely to be harassed on social media than any other online forum, with women, people of color and LGBTQ users reporting a disproportionate amount of that abuse. Roughly 80% of users believe the companies are still doing only a "fair or poor" job of handling that harassment, according to a Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults last year.

Meanwhile, terms like "censorship" and "free speech" have turned into political rallying cries for conservatives, frustrated by seeing right-leaning commentators and high-profile Republican officials booted off Facebook and Twitter for violating their rules. □





**Parents of transgender children and other supporters of transgender rights gather in the capitol outdoor rotunda to speak about transgender legislation being considered in the Texas House and Senate, Wednesday, April 14, 2021, in Austin, Texas. Associated Press**

## Early transgender identity tends to endure, study suggests

By **LINDSEY TANNER**  
AP Medical Writer

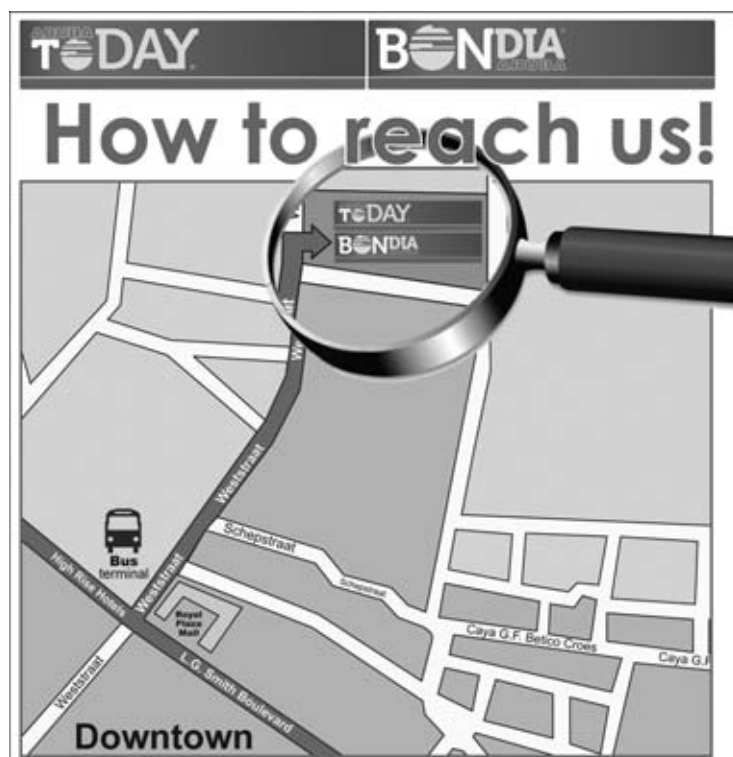
Children who begin identifying as transgender at a young age tend to retain that identity at least for several years, a study published Wednesday suggests. The research involved 317 youngsters who were 3 to 12 years old when they were recruited to the study. Five years later, at the study's end, 94% were living as transgender and almost two-thirds were using either puberty-blocking medication or sex hormones to medically transition. Most children in the study were from white, high-income families who supported their transitions. On average, the kids began identifying as transgender at around age 6. It's unknown whether similar results would be found among youngsters from less advantaged backgrounds or those who begin identifying as transgender as teenagers. The study was published online in Pediatrics.

Politicians seeking to outlaw or criminalize medical treatment for transgender youth have cited evidence suggesting many change children their minds or "re-transition."

Some doctors say that's why transgender medication or surgery shouldn't be offered until affected kids reach adulthood, but rigorous research on the numbers is lacking. The Pediatrics study is one of the largest to look at the issue, although not all kids

had started treatment and none had transgender surgery. The study is "incredibly timely ... and sorely needed," said Coleen Williams, a psychologist who works with Boston Children's Hospital's Gender Multispecialty Service, a clinic that treats transgender kids.

"If you're in the trenches doing this work day-in and day-out with trans kiddos and their families, this is what we see," said Williams, who was not involved in the study. "A majority of transgender youth and kids who make a social transition remain living in their affirmed gender." Families were recruited to participate in the study from social media groups for trans kids, camps, conferences and word of mouth in about 40 states. □



## Classifieds

### HTTA

Are you looking to Sell  
Your Time Share in Aruba ?  
Contact US !  
Local Expert for 37 years  
Giving wonderful service in a  
Wonderful way  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### HTTA

**Marriott Ocean Club**  
Palm Beach  
Gold Season  
1 BR Ocean view \$ 6 K  
2 BR Ocean view \$9 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### HTTA

**Marriott Surf Club**  
Palm Beach  
Gold Season  
2 BR Ocean View  
Price : 9 K each  
Call : 011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### HTTA

**Aruba Divi Phoenix**  
1 BR WK # 18 and 19  
Room # 650  
29 weeks remain each  
Price :9 K each  
Call : 011 -297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### HTTA

**Tierra Del Sol**  
24 hour security  
3 BR , 2 1/2 bath  
Ocean view with garage  
Price : \$450 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### HTTA

**Le Vent**  
Eagle Beach  
24 Hour security  
3 BR , 3 bath ground floor  
Price : \$870 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### HTTA

**Gold Coast**  
24 hour security  
2 BR , 2 Bath  
Price :\$380 K  
2 BR 2 1/2 Bath  
Price :400 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### HTTA

**House For Sale**  
Kamay Noord  
3 BR ,2 Bath  
With Pool  
Price: \$ 650 K  
Call:011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### HTTA

**Property Land 2350 m2**  
For sale in savaneta 5 min walk  
to Ocean  
Price :\$255 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



### HEALTH

#### DOCTOR ON DUTY

##### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

##### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel.524 8833

#### PHARMACY ON DUTY

##### Oranjestad:

Oduber Tel. 582 1780

##### San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto Tel. 584 4833

#### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

#### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

#### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

#### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

#### AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

#### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

**ARUBA TODAY**

**Editor**

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

**Assistant Director**

Xiomara Arends

**Editors**

Pilar Flores  
Richard Brooks

**Sales**

Sulaika Croes

**Classifieds**

classified@cspnv.com

**Distribution and Collection**

accounting@bondia.com

**Social / Website**

Juan Luis Pinto

**Columnists**

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
@arubatoday

Like  
us on  
**Facebook**

facebook.com/arubatoday/



## Stephen Sondheim celebrated by Dench, Peters at London gala

By **RONALD BLUM**

**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — Judi Dench was given a standing ovation for "Send in the Clowns." Bernadette Peters bent over with her back to the audience and with her head between her legs blasted her trumpet to "You Gotta Get A Gimmick."

Petula Clark, 89, belted out "I'm Still Here." And Imelda Staunton set off a huge ovation with "Everything's Coming Up Roses."

What the four had in common was devotion to Stephen Sondheim, the groundbreaking Broadway composer/lyricist who died in November at age 91. Dozens of stars of musical theater gathered Tuesday night for a celebration titled "Old Friends" to raise money for the Stephen Sondheim Foundation, which will benefit young composers.

"He always considered London his second home," producer Cameron Mackintosh, who organized the event, told the sellout crowd of about 1,100 at a theater renamed the Sondheim from the Queen's in 2019. "He brilliantly has left his incredible legacy of work to the support of future generations of artists through his foundation."

Lending drama to the evening, only the scheduled songs were included in the program, with the identi-



**Composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim poses for a picture after being awarded the Freedom of the City of London at a ceremony at the Guildhall in London, Sept. 27, 2018.**

**Associated Press**

ties of the attached singers provided to the audience only as people filed out. There was a minimal set and some cast members were costumed during a flowing program that showcased Sondheim's Tony, Olivier and Pulitzer Prize-winning work.

Peters, 74, who created the roles of Dot in "Sunday in the Park with George" and the Witch in "Into the Woods," made a dramatic entrance cloaked in a cape as Little Red Riding

Hood to Damian Lewis' Wolf. Marshalling her voice for drama and impact, Peters was included in eight of the 40 selections sung over 2 hours, 45 minutes, most notably a "Losing My Mind" rendition that left some of the audience in tears.

Michael Ball was given a central role in selections from "Sweeney Todd" that included a witty "A Little Priest" with Maria Friedman, an actress who has become a heralded director of Sondheim. He also sang

a gender-switched version of "Could I Leave You?"

Dench, reprising what many consider the definitive version of Sondheim's most-well known song, stumbled over some of the words but still created an indelible performance. The 87-year-old, who has limited vision, was helped to her chair for her performance.

Julia McKenzie, whom Mackintosh said had not appeared on stage in 24 years, returned at age 81

to join ensembles for "Side by Side" and "Not A Day Goes By" and a 10-woman rendition of "Broadway Baby" that included Helena Bonham Carter, Rosalie Craig and Jenna Russell plus Gary Wilmot.

Sondheim's humorous side was on display when Lewis, Rob Brydon and Julian Overdon put domestic uniforms over their tuxedos to join 88-year-old Siân Phillips in "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid." Janie Dee hammed up "The Boy From ..." a parody of "The Girl from Ipanema."

Members of the Royal Academy Musical Theatre Company and the Mountview theater academy lent youth with the "Tonight Quintet." Conductor Alfonso Casado Trigo led a 26-piece orchestra that was on stage, photos of Sondheim from youth until old age were displayed during an ensemble of "Not A Day Goes By" and a video was shown of Sondheim and fellow composer Andrew Lloyd Webber at a piano parodying their own work. As young singers joined the full company for the concluding "Our Time," Peters crossed the stage exchanging hugs as confetti fell and Dench appeared to be holding back tears. The performance seemed as memorable for the cast as for the audience. □



**Dolly Parton performs in concert on July 31, 2015, in Nashville, Tenn.**

**Associated Press**

By **MARK KENNEDY**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

Eminem, Lionel Richie, Carly Simon, Eurythmics, Duran Duran and Pat Benatar have been inducted

into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, a list that also includes Dolly Parton, who initially resisted the honor.

The honorees — voted on by more than 1,000 artists,

## Dolly Parton, Eminem, Richie get into Rock Hall of Fame

historians and music industry professionals — "each had a profound impact on the sound of youth culture and helped change the course of rock 'n' roll," said John Sykes, the chairman of the Rock Hall, in a statement Wednesday.

Parton had gone on social media to "respectfully bow out" of the process, saying she did not want to take votes away from the remaining nominees and had not "earned that right." The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation responded by saying ballots had already been sent and it was up to

the voters to decide if Parton was elected. Parton later said she would accept an induction.

In its citation, the hall called Parton "a living legend and a paragon of female empowerment," adding that "Her crossover success broadened the audience for country music and expanded the horizons for countless artists who followed."

To be eligible, artists are required to have released their first record 25 years prior to induction. Parton, Richie, Simon and Duran were selected on

their first go-round. Simon was a first-time nominee this year more than 25 years after becoming eligible. Eminem becomes the 10th hip-hop act to be inducted, making the cut on his first ballot.

Richie, a former member of The Commodores whose illustrious solo career includes pop classics like "Endless Love," "All Night Long" and "Hello," said being elected to the hall "is an incredible honor." He thanked voters and fans on Instagram and said: "Congratulations to all of my fellow 2022 inductees!" □



## Mr. 2,000: Baker becomes 12th manager to reach 2,000 wins

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Just call him Mr. 2,000.

Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker won his 2,000th game Tuesday night, becoming the 12th skipper in major league history to reach the milestone and the first Black man to do it. The benchmark victory came in Houston's 4-0 win over the Seattle Mariners and comes more than 29 years after he collected his first win on April 6, 1993, in San Francisco's 2-1 victory over St. Louis.

"I'm probably one of the luckiest men to ever walk on this earth," a grinning Baker said minutes after the final out.

The 72-year-old Baker said being the first Black manager to reach 2,000 wins makes the achievement even more meaningful.

"It means extra," he said. "It means extra to the culture. It means extra to society. It means extra to my race, and it means extra hopefully for others to get an opportunity (so) I'm not the last."

It's the latest milestone in a storied career as a player and manager that has spanned more than 50 years. Baker has reached the World Series twice as a manager, last season with the Astros and in 2002 with the Giants.

As a player, he went three



**Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker Jr. celebrates after a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners Tuesday, May 3, 2022, in Houston.**

Associated Press

times with the Dodgers, winning it all as a big-hitting left fielder in 1981.

So where does this moment rank?

"Right now it's at the top," he said. "But I ain't gonna stop now."

Ten of the 11 other managers who have accumulated at least 2,000 wins are in the Hall of Fame. Bruce Bochy (2,003), who isn't yet eligible, is the only exception. "This should lead straight to the Hall of Fame," Astros catcher Martín Maldonado said.

Baker's players presented him with a bottle of vintage Dom Pérignon champagne they signed with a gold marker to commemorate the achievement.

The team toasted Baker with far more reasonably

priced champagne in the clubhouse after the game. His wife, Melissa, and a group of about 10 friends were at the ballpark. Melissa Baker smiled as she filmed her husband post-game from the stands as the big screen displayed a picture of him with the words "2K Wins" in huge white letters.

Baker's career record is 2,000-1,745 and he's the only manager in major league history to take five different teams to the postseason.

He collected 840 wins in 10 years with the Giants, 322 in four seasons with the Cubs, 509 in six years with the Reds, 192 in two seasons with the Nationals and he has 137 in his tenure with the Astros.

"I'm just doing my job," Baker said. "I'm not that proud of myself yet."

He reached 500 wins while with the Giants in a 6-5 victory over the Phillies on June 1, 1999. His 1,000th win came on Aug. 30, 2004, while managing the Cubs to a 5-2 victory over Montreal. Win No. 1,500 came on May 9, 2012, with the Reds in a 2-1 triumph over Milwaukee.

"It's an honor to play for somebody who loves the game and loves his team and is so knowledgeable about the game of baseball and who has had such a storied career," Houston third baseman Alex Bregman said.

"To be able to learn from him, play for him and just to be able to suit up with him every single day is very special and nobody in here takes that for granted."

There was a time Baker wondered if he'd even get a chance to chase this milestone. After being fired by the Nationals following a 97-win season in 2017, Baker didn't get another job until 2020 after Houston's sign-stealing scandal cost manager A.J. Hinch his job.

"If there wasn't a scandal, I wouldn't be in this position," Baker said.

"My phone wasn't ringing off the hook. Three different times I lost jobs and twice I was winning, and I didn't get a call for two years...

so, yeah, it's just a matter of perseverance. And I'm here and I'm... where I'm supposed to be."

Right-hander Lance McCullers raved about Baker as a manager and a man and noted the difficult situation he walked into when he was hired in Houston.

"He helped us through a tough time as a clubhouse," McCullers said. "There in 2020 we were navigating through a lot of choppy water (and) everything going on post-COVID. He's earned our respect. It's a big milestone for him tonight. Probably one of the most exclusive clubs around."

Baker, who needs 41 wins to move all the way up to No. 9 on the career list, was asked about cracking the top 10.

"I'll get there long as I live," he said. "That's my thing. As long as I live and as long as you just do your job — and my job is to win — then I'll get there."

Baker said the first thing he thought of after the final out was being there when Bochy, a good friend, reached 2,000 wins. And then a second thought immediately popped into his head.

"That's the first thing I thought about," he said. "And next thing I thought about is that I needed three more to (catch) Bruce." □

## Tampa Bay, Seattle to meet in 1st NFL game in Germany

**LONDON (AP)** — The first regular-season NFL game in Germany will be between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Seattle Seahawks at the home of soccer club Bayern Munich.

The game will take place at the Allianz Arena on Nov. 13, the NFL said Wednesday. Frankfurt will also be staging a regular-season game in Germany during the next four years.

Tampa Bay's Tom Brady could become the first quarterback to start a game in three foreign countries. He won two games with the New England Patriots in London and another in Mexico City.

The schedule for the three NFL games in London next season was



**Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) is interviewed on the field after the NFL Super Bowl 55 football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, in Tampa, Fla., Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021.**

Associated Press

also announced, with the Green Bay Packers becoming the final team to play in Europe.

The Packers will take on the New York Giants on Oct. 9 at the home of Premier League soccer team Tottenham, a week after the Minnesota Vikings play the New Orleans Saints at the same stadium.

On Oct. 30, Wembley Stadium will host the Denver Broncos against the Jacksonville Jaguars, who played games there for seven straight seasons until 2019 before playing at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium last year.

The final international game will be between the San Francisco 49ers and the Arizona Cardinals on Nov. 21 in Mexico City. □



# Griner's absence, Hammon's return headline WNBA's new season

By **DOUG FEINBERG**  
AP Basketball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The WNBA will begin its 26th season this weekend with several intriguing storylines, including the potential retirement of Sue Bird and Sylvia Fowles, the return of Becky Hammon as a coach and the absence of Brittney Griner.

There is no bigger headline engulfing the league than Griner.

The Mercury's All-Star center remains in Russia after being detained following her arrival at a Moscow airport on Feb. 17. Russian authorities said a search of her luggage revealed vape cartridges that allegedly contained oil derived from cannabis, which could carry a maximum penalty of 10

years in prison. Griner's status has been changed to "wrongfully detained" and she has a hearing scheduled for May 19.

But Griner's presence will be felt even in her absence.

The league plans to honor Griner and keep her ongoing situation front and center with a floor decal that will feature her initials along with her number 42. It will appear on the home court of all 12 teams starting with Friday's season openers. The regular season ends Aug. 14.

Teams will play a record 36 games this year.

"The 36-game schedule will provide fans greater opportunities to see the best players in the world compete at the highest level," WNBA Commissioner Cathy

Engelbert said when the schedule was announced in December.

Before Griner's arrest the Mercury made many moves in the offseason to put the team in contention to win another championship after losing to Chicago last season in the Finals. Phoenix added Tina Charles and Diamond DeShields to the roster to compliment Diana Taurasi and Skylar Diggins-Smith.

DeShields joins the Mercury from the Sky, who will try and become the first team to repeat as champions since the Los Angeles Sparks did it in 2001-02. Chicago added Emma Meeseman — the 2019 WNBA Finals MVP — to its roster.

Then there is the looming retirement of All-Stars Bird



Phoenix Mercury's Brittney Griner watches during WNBA basketball practice on May 10, 2018, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

and Fowles.

Bird, the league's all-time assist leader, has said all signs are pointing toward this year being her last with the Seattle Storm, but she does not want the upcoming season to be a farewell

tour.

Fowles has stated she will retire after this season. The WNBA's all-time leading rebounder said it was a tough decision whether to come back for a 15th season or not.

A few other storylines to follow this season:

## HEALTHY MYSTICS

No team went through more injury problems the last two seasons than the Washington Mystics. Coach Mike Thibault hopes his team has finally put all that bad luck in the rearview mirror and is looking forward to having Elena Delle Donne and Alysha Clark in the lineup.

Delle Donne has only played in three games the last two seasons because of COVID-19 concerns and back issues. The former league MVP last was on the court fulltime in 2019 when the Mystics won their first championship. Clark missed last season, which would have been her first in Washington, due to a Lisfranc injury in her right foot.

## REBUILDING FEVER

Indiana used four first-round picks in the draft to try and rebuild its roster, taking NaLyssa Smith (2nd), Emily Engster (4th), Lexie Hull (6th) and Queen Egbo (10th). The Fever also drafted Destanni Henderson (20th). Draft choices haven't worked out so well for Indiana the last few years as the Fever selected Lauren Cox third in 2020 and she was cut last season. Last year Indiana took Kysre Gondrezick fourth. She is also no longer with the franchise. □

Everyday triple points

Totally sanitized table and chips.

# ORCHID CASINO

Located in the Riu Antillas (formerly the Westin)  
welcomes you to RESERVE YOUR OWN PRIVATE TABLE  
for you and your party.

**RESERVE your Private Table**

**Call 525 7777 ext.209  
to make a reservation.**